

Amendments to the Drawings:

A Replacement Sheet for Figure 2 is attached hereto. Figure 2 has been amended to change QM224 to read QM242. No new matter has been added as a result of this change.

REMARKS

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's thorough examination of the subject application and requests reexamination and reconsideration of the subject application in view of the preceding amendments and the following remarks. Applicant has carefully reviewed and considered the Office Action mailed on December 1, 2006, and the references cited therewith. Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application, as amended, are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-17 are pending in this application. As of this amendment, claims 1-5, 8-12 and 15-16 have been amended and claims 7, 14, and 17 have been cancelled. Claims 1-6, 8-13, and 15-16 are now believed to be in condition for allowance for the reasons stated below.

Claims 1-4, 7-11 and 14-15 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Vairavan (US Pub. No. 2002/0083344) and in view of Kim (US Pub. No. 2002/0069356). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Applicant's independent claims 1 and 9 have been amended to include the limitation of a firewall comprising "a first layer including a header match packet filtering engine configured to provide pattern matching in selected headers of data, a second layer including a contents match packet filtering engine configured to analyze the scope of at least one data packet, a third layer including at least one application proxy configured to provide additional pattern matching and a fourth layer including a session match engine configured to store a TCP/UDP connection setup and to forward the setup progress to a central processing unit (CPU) for tracking." Support for these amendments may be found in paragraphs 35-44 of the subject application.

Since neither Vairavan nor Kim teach or suggest each and every limitation of Applicant's amended independent claims 1 and 9, Applicant respectfully submits that these claims, and the claims dependent therefrom are now in condition for allowance. For this reason, Applicant requests that the rejection of claims 1-4, 7-11 and 14-15 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) be withdrawn.

Claims 5, 6, 12 and 13 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Vairavan (US Pub. No. 2002/0083344) in view of Kim (US Pub. No. 2002/0069356) and in view of Krishna et al. (US Pat. NO. 6,477,646). Applicant respectfully requests that these rejections also be withdrawn in light of the amendments discussed above.

Claim 16 stands rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kim (US Pub. No. 2002/0069356) and in view of Krishna et al. (US Pat. No. 6,477,646). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 16 has also been amended to include the new limitations described above with reference to independent claims 1 and 9. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn as well.

Having dealt with all the objections raised by the Examiner, it is respectfully submitted that the present application, as amended, is in condition for allowance. Thus, early allowance is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner desires personal contact for further disposition of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned Attorney at 603.668.6560.

In the event there are any fees due, please charge them to our Deposit Account No. 50-2121.

Respectfully submitted,
Jyshyang Chen

By his Representatives,

Grossman, Tucker, Perreault & Pflieger, PLLC
55 South Commercial Street
Manchester, NH 03101
603-668-6560

By: /Edmund P. Pflieger/
Edmund P. Pflieger
Reg. No. 41,252

Attachment: Replacement Sheet for Figure 2